

~~TOP SECRET DINAR VENONA~~

D 614

"OLA's" CONTACTS WITH STUPENKOV, A WOMAN NAMED CUNNINGHAM, SHAPLIN AND ESTRINA, APPARENTLY IN PURSUIT OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CASE OF "GNAT [KOMAR]"

Reissue (T669)

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

Nos.: 613-614

3 May 1944

[Part I] To PETROV.

Your no.195[1].

1. On our behalf under a plausible pretext "OLA"[ii] visited CARTHAGE [KARFAGEN][iii], [and][a] met a fascist acquaintance of whom you know, STUPENKOV[iv] (works at present guarding buildings of the "DOCK [DOK]"[v]), who, when he had drunk quite a bit, told her the following: He had to do with the desertion of GNAT [KOMAR][vi], whom he had met four times, had got him drunk, and had carried on "heart-to-heart talks". GNAT said he had acted from "ideological" considerations, "he was fed up with what he had seen over the span of 20 years." At the same time STUPENKOV acknowledged that a no less powerful motive was the desire of an easy, comfortable life and did not deny that this was just what had produced on GNAT an ~~impression~~ impression. S.[vii] helped GNAT to make contact with the TOWNSMEN [GOROZhANE][viii]. [C% For] this he met him in a club for military personnel located in the same building as the "Associated Press", conducted G.[K.][ix] to the doors of that agency, which at once got into contact with ShAPLIN[x]. Thereafter ShAPLIN took the affair of G. into his own hands and G. went to TYRE [TIR][xi]. By what STUPENKOV said, ShAPLIN knows G.'s whereabouts and continues to maintain contact with the latter. G. has been declaring[b] that he does not doubt that "they will liquidate" him. He has been trying to inflate the importance of what he has to tell and thus enable himself to have a quiet and comfortable life in the PERIPHERY [PERIPERIYA][xii] or the PROVINCES [PROVINTsii][xiii]. The letter in "The Times" was written by ShAPLIN. The affair simmered down because the LEAGUE [LIGA][xiv] did not [D% want]

[31 groups unrecoverable]

SKRYaGIN[xv]. The last meeting between them was six months ago, after which contact was, apparently, broken off. According to S.'s story, he used to meet SKRYaGIN once a fortnight. The latter was interested in the newspaper "ROSSIYA" and attempted through S. to influence RYBAKOV[xvi], apparently not imagining that S. had for a long time been employed on the paper.

[Part II] The break with SKRYaGIN STUPENKOV explains as due to the fact that during their acquaintance he [C% placed a][1 group garbled] article in "ROSSIYA", which very much surprised SKRYaGIN, and the latter put an end to the meetings. The meetings took place in SKRYaGIN's apartment. One day STUPENKOV met there twelve Soviet persons, among them GNAT.

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Recently they summoned STUPENKOV to the KhATA[xvii] and interrogated him about WASP [OSA][xviii] and her husband, a member of ZhAROV's[xix] chorus, ALEKSEEV[xx] (WASP [C% was trying[c]] unsuccessfully [2 groups unrecovered] N.T.S.N.P.[d]: OSIPOV[xxi], CAVALRYMAN [KAVALERIST][xxii]).

2. In CARTHAGE OLA[ii] made the acquaintance of an American woman CUNNINGHAM[xxiii] of the well-known PEABODY family. The latter works on the secret reception of foreign radio transmissions including those from the USSR. The reception of transmissions from the USSR is the business of 5-6 persons, all TOWNSMEN[viii]. There are no Russians. CUNNINGHAM is friendly with STUPENKOV. The Soviet citizen LOMONOSOV[xxiv] lives in her house. STUPENKOV sticks into his mailbox copies of the newspaper "ROSSIYa" after cutting his own name off the wrapper. "

[9 groups unrecoverable]

hopes to meet.

On a recent occasion, [C% OLA] became acquainted with ShAPLIN. She has been given the task of cautiously endeavouring to enter into closer relations with the latter, verifying what STUPENKOV says, and, if the opportunity presents itself, finding out more detailed information on the GNAT affair. OLA is well acquainted with ESTRINA[xxv], who in the past more than once invited her to work in the "Union of Russian Jews". As a result of OLA's joining the RADIO STATION [RATsIY][xxvi] they have not met for a long time, but when occasion offers OLA may be able to resume their old acquaintance. We think OLA should arrange to associate with ESTRINA and ShAPLIN.

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MAY [MAJ][xxvii]

T.N.: [a] Inserted by the translator.

[b] Or "kept declaring".

[c] Or "has been trying".

[d] N.T.S.N.P.: expansion NATsIONAL'NOJ TRUDOVOJ SOYuZ NOVOGO POROZhDENIYa - National Labor Union of the New Generation.

Comments: [i] Not available.

[ii] OLA: Christina KROTKOVA.

[iii] KARFAGEN: WASHINGTON, D.C.

[iv] Aleksej A. STUPENKOV' (Stupenkoff).

[v] DOK: U.S. Navy Department.

[vi] KOMAR: Viktor Andreevich KRAVChENKO.

[vii] S.: i.e. STUPENKOV.

[viii] GOROZhANE: Americans.

- [ix] K.: i.e. KOMAR.
- [x] Joseph SHAPLEN.
- [xi] TIR: NEW YORK, N.Y.
- [xii] PERIFERIYA: not identified. Possibly, as in ordinary Russian usage, "the outlying districts" (here, of the United States) - away from any metropolis.
- [xiii] PROVINTsII: Latin America.
- [xiv] LIGA: the U.S. Government.
- [xv] Nikolaj A. SKRYaGIN, Soviet Assistant Naval Attaché in WASHINGTON, D.C.
- [xvi] Nikolaj P. RYBAKOV, editor of "ROSSIYA".
- [xvii] KhATA: the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- [xviii] OSA: It would appear from this context that at this time the covername OSA was allotted to Lyudmila Nikolaevna ALEKSEEVA (Ludmilla Alexeef).
- [xix] Sergej ZhAROV (Serge Jaroff) director of the Don Cossack Chorus.
- [xx] P.I. ALEKSEEV (Paul Ivan Alexeef).
- [xxi] OSIPOV: Prince Nikolaj Vladimirovich ORLOV.
- [xxii] KAVALERIST: Sergej Nikolaevich KURNAKOV. It is difficult to see what OSIPOV and KAVALERIST have to do with the rest of the sentence; perhaps they are the sources of the information contained in the parenthesis.
- [xxiii] Leora Marguerite CUNNINGHAM, née PEABODY.
- [xxiv] Boris M. LOMONOSOV (Boris Mark Lomonossoff).
- [xxv] Lidiya ESTRINA (Lydia Estern).
- [xxvi] RATsIYa: Office of War Information.
- [xxvii] MAJ: Probably Stepan Zakharovich APRESYaN.
